

EcoRA Work Group Conference Call - Feb. 15, 2001, 9:00 - 9:30 AM

Participants:

Bill Beckley, Ridolfi Engineers
Lisa Saban, CH2M Hill
Harry Ohlendorf, CH2M Hill
Brad Sample, CH2M Hill
Brad Frazier, USFWS
Anne Dailey, EPA

EcoRA Schedule Update:

- EcoRA responses to comments will be distributed to commenters and trustee/regulatory parties in late February for a courtesy review, review period will be about 10 day - 2 weeks
- Revised EcoRA due out in mid-late May

DEcoRA Revisions:

- EPA's contractors at CH2M Hill and URS are busily working to address comments raised on the Draft EcoRA. Folks are resolving comments raised regarding background concentrations, the Spokane River and other issues.

Draft EcoRA Tech Memo 1:

- Tech Memo (Evaluation of Secondary Effects of Mining-related Hazardous Substances on Physical and Biological Ecosystem Characteristics) is out for review by the EcoRA Work Group with comments due to EPA on 2/16/01. The revised Tech Memo 1 will be included in the EcoRA as an appendix.

Soil Amendment Study Update:

- On 2/12/01, representatives from IDEQ, EPA, and USFWS went to the soil amendment field test plots at Bull Run Lake and Black Rock Slough to obtain screening level concentrations of lead in the soil/sediment. An XRF was used to measure the lead concentrations. Measurements were taken from wet/moist samples in the field and from oven-dried samples in the laboratory. Bull Run Lake samples ranged from 4220 to 6530 ppm Pb wet and 5490 to 11600 ppm Pb dry. The Black Rock Slough samples ranged from 1610 to 1900 ppm Pb wet and 2840 to 3520 ppm Pb dry. The range of lead concentrations will enhance our ability to make sense of the data.
- EPA and its contractor, IDEQ and USFWS are working to finalize the soil amendment plan and consensus documents.

PNW SETAC Meeting:

- The Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (PNW- SETAC) is having its annual meeting in Coeur d'Alene April 19-21, 2001. There may be a session at the meeting addressing mining issues.

CBIG meeting:

- Nick Zilka (IDEQ) and Brad Frazier (USFWS) gave a presentation on the soil amendment studies at the 2/14/01 Coeur d'Alene Basin Interagency Group meeting.

Next Teleconference:

- Next EcoRA call will be on March 1, 2001 at 9 AM PST
- Call-in number is 206-553-4557; no pass code required
- topics of discussion will include:
 - status of the EcoRA
 - background issues
 - discussion of comments received
 - other topics as appropriate